



Observer report - Great Scholars Riichi Mahjong Tournament, Oxford 2013 - (Riichi, MERS 1)

Observer: Peter LANGFORD

Date: April 6th 2013

Place: Oxford, United Kingdom

Website or other source(s) of information: Outline information on the UKMA website, with full details of registration, program, list of participants, location, etc. on the "Great Scholars" website.

Participants: 24 players

GBR	FRA	AUS
		
22	1	1

Playing schedule: 1 day, 5 rounds of 90 minutes

Location: The North Oxford association, Summertown, Oxford. Very good location, with ample playing space and spare rooms for eating and refreshments.

Equipment: Sets provided by the UKMA, mats by the Oxford Club and bridge tables by the local bridge club.

Refereeing: Ian Fraser was the official (playing) referee, with Martin Lester assisting.

Complaints: None.

Information / communication during the tournament: Two visible clocks with a gong sounded after 75 minutes indicating that the current hand should be completed and one more hand played. Ranking up to date between each session displayed on a computer screen.

Sessions: An interesting experiment of the seats for the 1st two sessions being decided by lots, the seats at the 2nd two sessions decided by positions after round 2, and the final table seats by positions after round 4. So the top table consisted of the 4 leading scores. After 4 sessions, Paola Bungaro had established a substantial lead, but was overtaken by two of her opponents on the last table – Aidan Robison and the eventual winner Philip Bielby. Perhaps it's the Latin temperament!

Catering: Lunch consisted of a typical English (student) menu of lasagne and curry at the same venue, with plenty of coffee, water, beer and wine!

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd), and other "innovative" prizes.

Conclusion: Very enjoyable tournament, well-organised by Martin Lester (assisted by Alex Marsh) who selflessly was also non-playing administrator, 1st-line referee and announcer.